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SENSITIVE

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DEPARTMENT FOR NEA/ELA, NEA/RA AND G/TIP

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TAGS: [KCRM](#) [KWMN](#) [PGOV](#) [PHUM](#) [SMIG](#) [AEMR](#) [EG](#)

SUBJECT: EGYPT: NTERIM TIP ASSESSMENT

REF: A. SECSTATE 147732 B. CAIRO 3031

[1](#)C. CAIRO 2536

[1](#)D. CAIRO 1097

Sensitive but unclassified, please protect accordingly.

[1](#)1. (U) Per ref A instructions, we provide the below input for the interim Trafficking-in-Persons (TIP) assessment for Egypt. We note that the GOE inter-ministerial "National Committee to Combat and Prevent Trafficking in Persons" had its first meeting in October 2007, representing a long-awaited step to increase official GOE efforts against trafficking. The inter-ministerial committee is working on three tracks: implementing already existing anti-TIP provisions; legislating new anti-TIP laws; and increasing public awareness of the nature and importance of TIP (ref B). Additionally, Egypt and the UAE are currently drafting the Arab League's anti-TIP action plan, which would be incumbent upon member states to implement.

Increasing Criminal Investigations and Prosecutions

[1](#)2. (SBU) The inter-ministerial committee has identified increasing investigations and prosecutions under existing law as one of its main tasks. The GOE already prosecutes some cases of individuals who force children into prostitution or begging. Over the past few months, there have been increasing reports of GOE authorities arresting smugglers who arrange for Egyptians to illegally travel to Europe to work. The GOE has also long been focused on Bedouin smugglers in the Sinai and is undertaking a comprehensive assessment of trafficking networks in the Sinai.

Identifying Victims and Providing Protection Services

[1](#)3. (SBU) Although not specifically geared towards trafficking victims, quasi-governmental organizations such as the National Center for Childhood and Motherhood (NCCM) and the National Center for Women (NCW) are bolstering their network of services to abused street children and women (ref D). USAID is supporting these efforts in a five-year activity to combat violence against women and children that is likely to incorporate anti-TIP priorities. A major component of the project will be to strengthen and expand services extended to street children, including the upgrading of reception houses.

Enacting Anti-Trafficking Legislation

[1](#)4. (SBU) The NCCM has drafted a new child protection law that specifically addresses TIP in regards to children, to be introduced in the current session of parliament (ref B). The law delineates a penalty of at least five years in prison and a fine of at least LE 50,000 (USD 8,990) for any persons who "present for purchasing, receive, or deliver a child in order to be treated as a slave or with the intention of usage in unlawful commercial or sexual exploitation or any other illegitimate purposes." Additionally,

those in violation of child labor laws are subject to fines beginning at LE 200 (USD 36), doubling for each violation, and any who "endanger the life of a child," which includes exposing a child to "abuse, violence, exploitation, or displacement," incurs a sentence of at least three months in prison. The new law increases the minimum age of marriage for girls from 16 to 18.

15. (SBU) The Ministry of Justice is also working on new, comprehensive anti-TIP legislation. This is the first indication we have of official GOE support for the idea that a comprehensive anti-TIP law is necessary for Egypt.

Instituting a Public Awareness Campaign

16. (SBU) In early July, state-owned Egyptian television began airing UN-produced public service announcements on labor trafficking during prime-time broadcasts. Media monitoring indicated that the spots were aired throughout the day, most notably before and after evening news programs, serials, and popular prime-time talk shows (ref C). The inter-ministerial committee has focused on increasing public awareness as one of its main tasks.

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